

HEAD START BUS DRIVER

DEFINITION: Under general supervision, performs work of routine difficulty driving a bus to transport Head Start children on assigned routes, from home to center and return to home and/or field trips, or to and from assigned destinations according to time schedule; monitors conduct of passengers on bus to maintain discipline and safety; performance maintenance checks to ensure bus complies with safety and transportation regulations; performs related work as assigned.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS: This list is ILLUSTRATIVE ONLY and is not a comprehensive listing of all functions and tasks performed by incumbents of this class.

TASKS:

Drives bus to transport Head Start children on assigned routes, from home to center and return to home, and/or field trips, or to and from assigned destinations according to time schedule; works with teacher to establish bus routes at the beginning of each school year and recommends changes when necessary; assures that the children are released into the care of their parent or guardian designated by the parent according to program policy; checks bus to ensure that there are no children remaining on the bus at the end of each route; assures the safety of children in getting on the bus, getting off the bus, and during the route.

Performs pre-trip/post-trip inspections before and after each route; performs maintenance checks to ensure bus complies with safety and transportation regulations; schedules regular, periodic maintenance of the bus; reports all other maintenance concerns and problems; assures that all required inspections are done on a timely basis; checks fire extinguishers; replenishes and maintains first aid kit; assures the interior is clean and disinfected properly; cleans the exterior of bus as needed; maintains log by recording mileage, fuel and maintenance expenses; checks and maintains level of oil and water.

Maintains discipline, safety and comfort of children according to appropriate policies, rule and regulations; reports delays, accidents or incidents; works closely with bus monitor to maintain order on the bus, and instructs the bus monitor when children are distracting the bus driver; works with bus monitor to ensure all passengers are properly restrained before driving the bus; notifies teacher of concerns regarding the children's health, behavior or emotional state; conducts and participates in bus safety evacuation drills and presentations; prepares required reports; attends meetings; communicates with parents and program staff regarding program activities.

In addition to the above, may be required to participate in classroom instruction, assist in the development of lesson plans on transportation, provide assistance in the supervision of children, and assist with the preparation of meals and snacks based on Head Start Program guidelines; prepares supplies and materials for activities; maintains clean safe environment, cleans and sanitizes classroom, toys, kitchen and restrooms; sweeps and mops floors, and takes out trash; participates in parent activities; participates in training and workshops; assists in recruiting eligible children and collecting required documents; participates in training modules for early childhood education child development associate (CDA) credential.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND OTHER CHARACTERISTICS:

Knowledge of federal, state and local traffic regulations and practices for transportation of school children.
Knowledge of the inspection, operation and preventative maintenance of school buses.
Knowledge of Head Start Program policies, practices and procedures.

HEAD START BUS DRIVER

Knowledge of preparation of age appropriate learning and socialization activities.
Knowledge of early childhood educational methods and practices.
Skill in safely transporting Head Start Program students to and from their homes.
Skill in monitoring and modeling behavior of Head Start Program students.
Skill in utilizing effective written and verbal communication in the development of activities, maintaining records, files and reports and working with parents of students.
Skill in maintaining a clean safe environment.
Skill in utilizing public relations techniques in responding to inquiries and complaints.
Skill in establishing and maintaining effective working relationships.
Ability to make decisions in a variety of situations regarding priorities and effectively handling emergencies.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS AND WORK ENVIRONMENT: Work requires lifting up to 50 lbs., carrying, and working with young children while safely transporting, teaching and supervising Head Start Program students.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- A high school diploma or GED.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Six (6) months bus driving experience.
- A Child Development Associate (CDA) or twelve (12) related college credit hours.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

- A favorable background investigation.
- Possess a valid Commercial Driver's License with Passenger and School Bus Endorsement.
- Must pass a physical examination with tuberculosis (TB) clearance prior to date of hire.

Supplemental Requirements:

Incumbent must obtain a Bus Driver's Certificate, a Navajo Nation Vehicle Operator's Permit, a current Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Certificate, a First Aid Certificate and a Food Handler's Permit within 90 days of date of hire. Incumbents must abide by the program's standards of conduct.

Depending upon the needs of the Nation, some incumbents of the class may be required to demonstrate fluency in both the Navajo and English languages as a condition of employment.